

COUNTY OF RAVALLI



Hamilton, Montana 59840

Ravalli County Commissioners
215 S. 4th Street, Suite A
Hamilton, MT. 59840
406-375-6500

August 6, 2007

Eddy Stewart/Tony Golden
C/O NorthWestern Energy
FAX: 406-497-3002

RE: Stevensville 'Wye' N & S MDOT Reroute Project

Dear Mr. Stewart and Mr. Golden;

As per your letter of August 3, 2007, the RAVALLI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS does grant permission for you to move forward with phase one and phase two of the above named project, as mitigated by you and your subcontractors, during our 'No Open Burning Season' and implementation of Resolution No. 2174 and Resolution No. 2176.

As indicated in Resolution No. 2174 this written authorization to move forward with this reroute project does not relieve an individual or organization from liability or responsibility for any fire started by the exempted activity.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF RAVALLI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Absent

James E. Rokosch, Chairman

Absent

Alan Thompson, Member

Kathleen Driscoll
Kathleen Driscoll, Member

Carlotta Grandstaff

Carlotta Grandstaff, Member

Greg Chilcott

Greg Chilcott, Member



Eddy S. Stewart, E.E.
Electric Transmission Engineer
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d/b/a NorthWestern Energy
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Butte, MT 59701
Telephone: (406) 497-3000
Facsimile: (406) 417-3002
www.northwesternenergy.com

RE: STEVENSVILLE WYE N & S MDOT 69kV REROUTE

The Stevensville Wye N & S MDOT 69kV Reroute project is in conjunction with the Montana Department of Transportation (MDOT) and it consists of rebuilding 8.5 miles of 69kV Transmission line with 12.5kV Distribution Under-build between the north side of Stevensville Wye heading south to Bell Crossing. Asplundh Tree Clearing Services will begin work on phase I of the project, which starts at the north end (Stevensville Wye) of the project and it continues on to S. Kootenai Creek Road (Approx. 3.miles). Phase II of the subject project will go from S. Kootenai Creek Road to the south side of Bell Crossing Road (Approx. 5.0 miles). Asplundh will clear trees along NorthWestern Energy's new line route on MDOT's right-of-way as well as several feet on the lands of the private owner.

The following is a list of the general equipment and fire preventive measure that Asplundh will adhere to as they clear the right-of-way for the subject project.

1.) Equipment that Asplundh Tree Clearing Service expects to utilize on the project:

- a. 60'-70' diesel bucket truck.
- b. Diesel top exhaust chipper.
- c. Diesel skidder mounted chipper on rubber.
- d. 2-chainsaws equipped with spark arrestors.

2.) Asplundh would like to commence work on Monday; August 7, 2007 and they expect to finish the first phase in approximately 4 to 6 weeks. Asplundh would like to work 10-hour days Monday through Thursday (7 am to 5:30 pm) with the crew staying in the immediate area for 2 hours after the completion of work. Asplundh will work between the "hoot-owl" hours (1:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) if the Ravalli County Commissions Office will not grant permission to work the hours described above.

3.) Asplundh will spray water on the stumps before and after the cuts are made close to the ground. Tall grass will be removed from the area of the cuts near the ground as well as the grass close to truck exhaust will be sprayed with water. All personnel working a chainsaw will have a fire extinguisher attached to their side as they are working.

4.) Asplundh will have on site a slip in water tank and pump mounted in a 4x4 pick-up, as well as a 25 gallon tank and sprayer mounted on an ATV. There will also be a 5 gallon piss-can on site as well as shovels, axes and pulaski's. The lift truck has a 3-lb fire extinguisher and the skidder-mounted chipper has two (2) 20-lb fire extinguishers mounted on each side. All saw operators will have a personal fire extinguisher on hand when cutting with a chainsaw.

5.) Foreman, Ryan Nelson is a fireman with the Corvallis fire dept. and has been trained in fighting wildfires.

6.) All of Asplundh's crewmembers are trained in fire containment and prevention.

Eddy S. Stewart/Tony Golden

NorthWestern Energy

RECEIVED

AUG 03 2007

4:00 pm

Ravalli County Commissioners

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